

Message Text

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ACTION M-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SS-15 SCA-01 VOE-00 A-01 PER-05

ABF-01 /038 W
----- 048193

R 250905Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5628

UNCLAS TOKYO 9546

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN
SUBJECT:SURVEY TEAM TO STUDY NONIMMIGRANT VISA WORKLOAD PROBLEMS

REF: STATE 143481 AND EMBASSY'S 8869

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES SURVEY TEAM'S VISIT AND HAS RESERVED THREE SINGLE ROOMS WITH BATH FOR AUGUST 8 THROUGH 11 AT HOTEL OKURA NEAR CHANCERY. CONCUL GENERAL AT KOBE PLANS TO VISIT EMBASSY DURING TEAM'S STAY HERE.

2. ON RECOMMENDATION OF INSPECTOR HUSSMAN EMBASSY VISA BRANCH CHANGED PUBLIC HOLYU CLOSING NOW AT 13:30. THIS HAS PROVEN VERY HELPFUL, ENSURING MORE EFFICIENT USE OF PERSONNEL DURING AFTERNOON. SIMILAR CHANGE OF HOURS MIGHT WELL BE ADVISABLE FOR MANY POSTS NOT YET ON SUCH SCHEDULE.

3. HOWEVER ISSUANCE CONTINUES TO INCREASE ABOUT 40 PERCENT ANNUALLY IN JAPAN; USTS AND EMBASSY PREDICT THAT WILL CONTINUE (CURRENT MONTH TOTAL EXPECTED TO BE 50 PERCENT ABOVE LAST JULY). IN VIEW OF SUCH SHARP RATE OF INCREASE, THE EXTRMELY LOW RATE OF PROBLEM CASES AND THE EXCEPTIONALLY TRUSTWORTHY LOCAL STAFF, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT UNPRECEDENTED SPECIAL MEASURES FOR JAPAN VISA OPERATION WOULD BE JUSTIFIED. ONE PROPOSAL, WELL KNOWN TO VISA OFFICE BUT TO DATE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO AGENCIES CONCERNED, WOULD BE THE AUTHORIZATION OF MACHINE FASCIMILE SIGNATURE, WHICH WOULD ENABLE OFFICERS TO UTILIZE THEIR TIME MUCH MORE ADVANTAGEOUSLY AND WOULD VERY LIKELY IMPROVE RATHER THAN JEOPARDIZE VISA SECURITY.

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4. WE ARE REQUESTING ADDITIONAL VISA MACHINES AND WILL NO DOUBT
CONTINUE TO DO SO. DUE TO FREQUENCY OF REPAIRS AND ACTUAL BREAKDOWNS
IT IS VITAL TO HAVE SPREA MACHINES ON HAND, TO PRECLUDE ANY SLOWDOWN
IN PRODUCTION FOR LACK OF PROPERLY FUNCITIONING EQUIPMENT.

5. THE IMPELEMENTATION OF THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE
HOKOHAMA OFFICE WOULD ADD TWO EXPERIENCED LOCAL EMPLOYEES TO CONSULAR
SECTION AND OBLVIAE NECESSITY OF CONSULAR OFFICER TRAV
ING THERE
THREE MORNINGS EACH WEEK.

6. EMBSSY'S REFTEL REQUESTED ONE ADDITIONAL OFFICER AND TWO LOCAL
POSITIONS. THROUGH ENTIRE CONSULAR SECTION SHORT OF SPACE, WE
CAN UTILIZE SUCH STAFF INCREASES IF AUTHORIZED. COMPLETION OF NEW
EMBASSY WILL INEVITABLY IMPROVE OUR PRODUCTIVITY TO SOME EXTENT.

7. PURCHASE OF DIEBOLD OR SIMILAR ROTARY FILES WOULD DOUBTLESS BE
SOMETHING OF A TIME-SAVER.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO09546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730711/aaaaahme.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION M
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 143481 AND EMBASSY'S 8869
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by thomasv0>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: URVEY TEAM TO STUDY NONIMMIGRANT VISA WORKLOAD PROBLEMS
TAGS: CGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005